

Sec. 23-210. Stormwater service charge billing, delinquencies and collections.

(a) A stormwater service charge bill may be included as a separate line item to the city's water and sewer billing or may be sent through the United States mail or by alternative means, notifying the customer of the amount of the bill, the date the payment is due, and the date when past due. The stormwater service charge bill may be billed and collected along with other charges, including but not limited to the city water and sewer billing, or other means as deemed most effective and efficient by the city council. The owner of each parcel of land shall be ultimately obligated to pay such charges and any associated late charges, interest or penalties.

(b) Where stormwater service charges appear on the city water and sewer bill and a customer does not pay the service charges for all utilities on the bill in full, the partial payment shall be applied to the respective service charges in a prorated manner.

(c) In the event that stormwater service charges that appear on the City of Columbia water and sewer bill including those cases where the only charge on the water and sewer bill is the stormwater service charge are not paid when due, interest and/or late fees shall accrue in the same manner and at the same rate as provided for by section 23-142 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, until such time as the overdue payment and interest are paid.

(d) If a property receives water and/or sewer service and if the stormwater service charges for that property are not paid, the city shall have the authority to terminate water and/or sewer service to that property. Termination will be in accordance with section 23-141 of the City of Columbia Code of Ordinances regarding notice, appeal, and termination of utility services. Alternatively, the city may pursue such remedies as are available and as authorized by state law including the issuance of a civil penalty as provided for by state law.

(e) No property for which stormwater service charges are outstanding shall receive water and/or sewer service until the outstanding stormwater service charge on that property is paid in full. No customer with a delinquent stormwater service account shall be permitted to open a water and/or sewer account at the same or different location until the delinquency has been satisfied in full.

(f) If a customer is underbilled or if no bill is sent for a particular property, the city may backbill for a period of up to three years, but shall not assess late charges, interest or penalties for that period.

(g) Detached single-family dwelling units shall be subject to the imposition of a stormwater service charge upon establishment of a water and/or sewer account for the said property. Other developed lands shall be subject to the imposition of a stormwater service charge upon establishment of a water and/or sewer account for the said property or in those cases where water and/or sewer service is not needed upon the final approval of site development by the city.

(Ord. No. 2002-029, 6-19-02)